employees and at the same percentage and at the same frequency as is applicable to the departmental employees, w.e.f. 1 1.1986.

5. While the payment of ex-gratia bonus to ED employees on the basis of actual remuneration has not been agreed to, they were made eligible for payment of bonus for the year 1986-87 on the basis of deemed monthly emoluments of Rs. 240/- against Rs. 130/- earlier.

Payment of prorata wages to ED employees

1163. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department has issued orders on 10th February, 1988 to pay prorata wages to all the casual labour, part-time casual labour and contingency paid workers of the department;

(b) if so, whether Government consider to pay prorata wages to ED employees also;

(c) whether the Department has announced that ED employees would get increased emoluments from 27 per cent to 66 per cent and whether this increase has been actually given to all the ED employees especially ED Branch Postmasters and ED Stamp Vendors; and

(d) whether any proposal to cover the ED employees under Group Insurance Scheme is under the consideration of the Department; if so, what progress has been made in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. But the percentages of increased emoluments for various categories of Extra Departmental employees, vary from 25.65 to 69.1.

(d) Yes, Sir. The matter is receiving attention.

KVIC grants for Rural Industries

1164. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industries set up in rural areas have become eligible for KVIC grants; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Programmes are being implemented through respective State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, Registered institutions and Cooperative Societies for which KVIC provides financial assistance which includes grants as per pattern of assistance applicable to various Khadi and Village Industries Programmes. Generally grants are not given alone to any unit but given only with the matching loan component. Pattern of assistance differs from industry to industry and within industry from scheme to scheme. Managerial grant is given only to registered institutions/cooperative societies subject to prescribed conditions. Recently the Government has re-defined 'Village Industry' by amending the KVIC Act, with a view to widen the scope of village industries under the purview of KVIC. According to the amended Act, any industry having a capital investment of Rs. 15,000 per head of employment and located in rural area is eligible for KVIC assistance. This is intended to help more number of people and encourage village industries in rural areas only to accelerate the pace of rural industrialisation. KVIC proposes to take up about 25 new industries under its aegis for promotion